

THE OPEN UNIVERSITY OF SRI LANKA  
DIPLOMA IN ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE



FINAL EXAMINATION - October 2016  
INTRODUCTION TO POETRY - LSD1210  
DURATION - THREE HOURS (03 hours)

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DATE: 22.10.2016 TIME: 1.30 pm. - 4.30 pm

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ANSWER PART A, PART B, AND ONE FROM PART C.

Part A

1. Read the following poem and answer the questions given below.

"Nature" is what we see  
The Hill—the Afternoon—  
Squirrel—Eclipse—the Bumble bee—  
Nay—Nature is Heaven—  
Nature is what we hear—  
The Bobolink<sup>1</sup>—the Sea—  
Thunder—the Cricket<sup>2</sup>—  
Nay—Nature is Harmony—  
Nature is what we know—  
Yet have no art to say—  
So impotent Our Wisdom is  
To her Simplicity.

- i. What are the main nature images used by the poet?
- ii. Briefly explain in your own words the meaning of "Nature is what we know. Yet have no art to say"?
- iii. What is meant by  
"So impotent Our Wisdom is  
To her Simplicity."?
- iv. What are the main characteristics of nature which are presented in the poem?
- v. Why does the poet personify Nature?

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<sup>1</sup> A small blackbird

<sup>2</sup> An insect like a grasshopper

vi. What is the poet's attitude to nature?

(30 marks)

**Part B**

2. Comment on two of the following extracts.

- a) Place the passage in context.
- b) Comment on the important elements in the extract.
- c) Comment on the significance of the extract to the poem as a whole.

i) "Ai, I'll not speak of sadness  
here on earth,  
of having lost a companion  
who was never servile.  
His friendship for me, like that  
of a porcupine  
withholding its authority...."

ii) "If you could hear  
at every jolt, the blood  
come gargling from the froth  
corrupted lungs,  
obscene as cancer, bitter as cud"

iii) "Today a judge in a musty courtroom  
Will decide that  
we can no longer live together,  
you and I.  
He will declare our marriage  
Terminated.  
Transform us into strangers. Again."

(30 marks)

**Part C**

3. 'War is not a solution to conflicts'. How far is this statement justified in war poetry?  
Analyse with reference to at least **03 poems** from the prescribed anthology.
4. 'Life is full of unexpected twists and changes.' How do poets present this idea?  
Comment with reference to at least **03 poems** from the prescribed anthology of poems.
5. Discuss briefly the portrayals of women with reference to at least **02 poems** in your anthology.

**(40 marks)**